

Serial No. 09/991,671
WH-10 725-1US

Page 5

Remarks

Independent claim 21 is directed to a networked system of pay to play video game terminals where only a limited portion of the series of games available for play are eligible for additionally entering a registered user in a random draw.

This arrangement allows the system operator to influence the player's decision with respect to what games are being played and to encourage players to register and thus obtain entry in the random draw. It has been found that the automatic entry in the random draw of certain eligible games shifts the playing habits and significantly increases the play of games eligible for the draw. The registration provides additional information regarding the individual players and their playing habits.

In contrast to a host of prior art arrangements where each player is trying to accumulate points for redemption of prizes, there is no requirement with the present system to stock prizes at particular locations. Furthermore, the present system does not accord all registered players the right to claim a particular prize. With this system, the registered players upon paying for an eligible game, are entered in a draw, however, there will be many entries and only a few selected winners. Thus the contest is easy to organize and operate while acting as an effective promotional tool that encourages the identification of players. The actual draw is coordinated by the central computer.

In preferred embodiments associated with dependent claims, accounting information is also provided to the central computer. The networked terminals report to the central computer and communicates draw information and additionally reports the actual games played on the terminal to the central source. Thus an accurate report of the particular games played and the revenue generated by that particular terminal is provided to the central

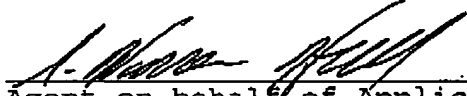
Serial No. 09/991,671
WH-10 725-1US

Page 6

source. This remote accounting simplifies money collection and the cost for the networking is insignificant as the terminal is already reporting to the central source regarding the random draw mode.

In view of the above, we await the results of the Examiner's review and consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,


Agent on behalf of Applicant
S. Warren Hall
Registration No. 30,350
(416) 368-8313

WH/sdw